



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OUTREACH



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HAZMAT REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

Have a question regarding the transportation of hazmat or dangerous goods? Utilize the PHMSA Help Desk at **1-800-HMR-4922**. The help desk is staffed 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. (EST)

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Ms. April Charnota was recently selected as the Senior Compliance Investigator with PHMSA's Western Region Field Office. April is located in Los Angeles, CA, where she manages the region's Systems Integrity Safety Program (SISP). April specializes in the inspection of manufacturers who produce and import pressure vessels under Department of Transportation Approvals.



Prior to joining PHMSA, April worked as Secretary to the Region Director for the Department of Commerce, and for the U.S. Census Bureau in LA. April served 7 years in the U.S. Army as a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Specialist, and as a Command Advisor for that division where she managed and implemented training programs for multiple battalions. She also served as a company trainer for the Republic of Korea Army and was deployed during *Operation Iraqi Freedom* in 2003. April earned her Master's degree in Liberal and Integrative Studies from the University of Illinois in 2016.

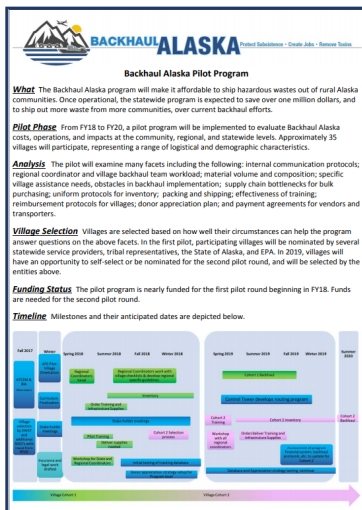
CALL TO LEADERSHIP

Ms. Bernetta Collins, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), joins PHMSA to fill a vital role as acting Deputy Associate Administrator for Field Operations. At FHWA, Ms. Collins serves as Director of the Resource Center. As Director, Ms. Collins leads a staff of up to 150 technical specialists and administrative personnel including professional specialty teams in areas including Structures, Geotechnical, Hydraulics, Construction, Finance, Environment, and Air Quality. She also manages marketing, communication and mission support staff that directly support her and the Resource Center. Her technical staff supports Federal, State, and local partners while she sets the overall and strategic direction for the teams and the office. FHWA's Resource Center operates remotely, nationwide, and provides



expert-level technical assistance, customized training, and advancing state-of-the-art as well as state-of-the-practice surface transportation technologies. Ms. Collins joined FHWA in 2005 from Colorado State government where she was Director of the Office of Regulatory Reform within the Department of Regulatory Agencies. She also worked with the Colorado Department of Transportation where she held several leadership positions including Director of the Office of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Certification. Ms. Collins is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force where she served with distinction as an electrician in the Civil Engineering Squadron. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management.





RURAL ALASKA HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL



Hazardous waste disposal in the United States is an important issue, vital to maintaining a healthy environment—and it's the law.

Rural Alaska is no exception. As the rural environments expand within the state, proper disposal of hazardous waste is more important than ever. These communities are without proper disposal facilities and must transport their haz-

ardous waste out of the state.

“Backhaul Alaska” is an organization of multiple stakeholders, to include PHMSA, which is driven to fix the hazmat waste problem within Alaska. This self-sustaining program will help protect subsistence, create jobs, and remove unwanted toxins from the environment.

For more information, check out Backhaul Alaska at: backhaulalaska.org

INCIDENT REPORTING

The Hazardous Materials Incident Communication System (HAZMATICS) is an innovative, intuitive, comprehensive system for reporting hazardous material incidents. We've implemented HAZMATICS with modernized capabilities that provide further automation, improved efficiencies, and a better user experience.

Incident reports are required by law and must be submitted to PHMSA. 49 CFR 171.15 and .16 lay out when an incident report is required.

Together we can protect people and the environment by advancing the safe transportation of energy and other hazardous materials that are essential to our daily lives.

For more information, e-mail: phmsaHAZMATICS@dot.gov



- ◆ You may now report an incident on line using HAZMATICS.
- ◆ HAZMATICS has business rule validation, built-in user guidance (including tools, tips, and an instruction booklet), and a new user interface.
- ◆ Users can upload supporting documentation.
- ◆ You can now save a report to return to it later as well as view your previous drafts and submitted reports.
- ◆ Workgroups can access reports with a single owner.
- ◆ Users automatically get reminders about incomplete reports.

HAZMATICS VIDEOS

PHMSA has developed the following video tutorials for the use of HAZMATICS on the PHMSA YouTube channel:

HAZMATICS OVERVIEW

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/RNsUhPgnXoQ>

CREATE A WORKGROUP

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/craRMXcYyTY>

CREATE ROUTINE INCIDENT

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/2RcLzkU54I0>

INCIDENT WITH MULTIPLE COMMODITIES / SHIPPERS

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/678FHBq5gyQ>



Did You Know?



The correct term is "civil penalties," not "fines." PHMSA's civil penalties are updated yearly in accordance with the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Acts of 1990 and 2015. The current maximum civil penalty for a violation of federal hazardous materials law is set at \$78,376, or \$182,877 for violations that result in death, serious illness, severe injury, or substantial destruction of property. For training violations, there is a minimum penalty of \$471. If an inspection has revealed violations that have a direct or substantial impact on safety, the matter is referred to PHMSA's Office of Chief Counsel to initiate an enforcement case.

An Office of Chief Counsel attorney then prepares a Notice of Probable Violation, laying out the probable violations and proposing a civil penalty. The company may respond to this Notice by paying the penalty, providing information in its defense, requesting an informal conference, or requesting that the case be heard by an Administrative Law Judge.

If the company does not pay the penalty or respond to the Notice, then it is referred for a Default Order and its information is evaluated. If the Chief Counsel determines the penalty should be assessed, an Order is issued that makes a formal finding of violation and assesses a civil penalty.

If a company fails to pay the penalty, debt collection procedures are initiated and PHMSA may issue a cessation of hazardous materials operations order to the company if it has not paid the penalty or entered into an acceptable payment plan within 45 days of the date specified by the final agency order, to take effect on the 91st day after the payment due date.

Current Penalty Guidelines can be found in Title 49 CFR Appendix A to Subpart D of Part 107— [Guidelines for Civil Penalties](#).

carrier community at that same PHMSA publication's link.

PHMSA's Outreach, Engagement and Grants Division is dedicated to helping the general public navigate the technical regulations with ease. To learn more about their publications, as well as hazardous materials safety, regulatory requirements, and federal grant opportunities for your community, visit PHMSA's website.



REMINDER.....

Current DOT regulations require initial and recurrent training of all employees who perform work functions covered by the regulations. Any employee whose work directly affects hazmat transportation safety is required to undergo training.

PHMSA has developed training modules that meet the requirements for general awareness and general security training as prescribed in 49 CFR, Part 172, Subpart H.

The Hazardous Materials Transportation Training Modules contain an interactive training program for individual instruction. The training modules are available at: <http://dothazmat.vividlms.com>



NEW PHMSA PUBLICATION

PHMSA's Outreach and Engagement staff has developed a new publication titled *Hazmat Transportation Requirements* that outlines the basics of shipping hazardous materials. This publication does not replace the regulations, but does cover the fundamentals of offering hazardous materials into transportation. Training requirements, utilizing the Hazardous Materials Table, Hazard Communication, including Shipping Papers, and Packaging selection are all covered.

Thinking of becoming a Hazardous Materials shipper? This guide is a key first step in discovering the necessary regulatory requirements of becoming a certified Hazmat Shipper.

Each publication also comes with a DOT Chart 16 insert that you may hang in your workplace to remind your employees—hazmat employees or not—how to recognize potential Hazardous Material Shipments. The DOT Chart 16 displays the latest approved Markings, Labels, and Placards in simple, easy-to-read pictograms.

This publication is coming to our website soon; find it on our publications link [here](#). You can also find other extremely helpful publications created by PHMSA for the Hazardous Materials Shipping and



Is HazMatt hiding in your package?

He may seem nice, but watch out—HazMatt can also be toxic, corrosive, and even explosive if he's handled inappropriately when transported. Always CHECK THE BOX for HazMatt and don't forget his friends: batteries, lighters, hairspray, and more. If you find them, remember to ensure they're being sent with the proper packaging, marking, and labeling by notifying your shipper. These items are important to our daily lives, but they can really be a handful!

**CHECK THE BOX**

Need assistance with identifying hazardous materials or any hazardous material transportation regulations? Contact the Hazardous Materials Information Center by phone 1-800-467-4922 or 202-366-4488 or email infoctr@dot.gov. checkthebox.dot.gov

U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

UNDECLARED HAZMATT SHIPMENT INITIATIVE

Approximately 1500 incidents occur every year due to undeclared hazmat in the transportation system. This is highly concerning to all involved, from the shipper to the recipient and everyone in between. According to the federal regulations, it is incumbent on the shipper to identify and properly classify hazardous materials prior to shipment. Businesses that routinely ship hazardous materials are aware of these regulations and are diligent about following the rules and regulations.

Introducing HazMatt, the new animated character developed by PHMSA to educate the general public on what hazmat is, and how to identify common items that are considered hazmat. Learning from HazMatt is simple; visit www.checkthebox.dot.gov and browse the helpful material provided. Being able to identify items in your shipment can help reduce or even eliminate undeclared hazmat in the transportation system. You can also watch a short

[video](#) to learn about what HazMatt and his friends are up to in teaching the general public about undeclared hazmat.

Also on the website, you can download and print helpful materials to distribute to family and friends. Please follow the 6 steps listed to help you determine if you have hazmat in your shipment prior to offering to a carrier such as FedEx, UPS or even the U.S. Postal Service. It is important to note that most U.S. mail is carried around the country by airlines such as Delta, American and United with passengers onboard. Shipping undeclared hazmat puts lives at risk and poses a threat to the safety and security of the aircraft.

This initiative was developed in cooperation with the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), US Postal Service, FedEx, UPS, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Federal Rail Administration (FRA), Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), US Coast Guard and many other interested parties to enhance the safety of our transportation system and minimize the risk to the general public by means of education. Knowledge is power.

Did you know that many consumer products we use every day are hazardous materials?

-  **Beauty Products**
Including essential oils, perfumes/colognes, and haircare products.
-  **Paint**
Including household paints, spray paints, and inks. This also includes paint-related products such as wood stains, paint thinners/removers, and sealants.
-  **Dry Ice**
Including food, medical, or other perishable shipments containing dry ice.
-  **Lithium Batteries**
Including portable chargers/power banks and all devices powered by lithium batteries such as laptops, cell phones, and other consumer electronics.
-  **Cleaning Products**
Including aerosol sprays, bleaches, and swimming pool chemicals.
-  **Home & Garden Products**
Including ammonium nitrate fertilizers/fertilizer compounds, insecticides, and other pest control products.
-  **Pressure Containers & Refrigerants**
Including scuba tanks, fire extinguishers, and any aerosol spray receptacle, even those containing food products or other non-hazardous substances. Refrigerants can include any refrigerated liquid such as liquid nitrogen, carbon dioxide, and argon.
-  **Explosive Items**
Including consumer or novelty fireworks, ammunition, and gun powders.
-  **Other Common Household Items**
Including fuels and camping equipment or other fuel-powered equipment, alcohols, matches/lighters, smoke detectors, and car batteries/other automotive products.

Please contact our Hazmat Info Center Hotline at 1-800-HMR-4922 or infoctr@dot.gov for any hazardous materials questions you may have or help in identifying a hazardous material prior to shipment.

Follow us on Twitter:

@USDOT
@PHMSA_DOT

YouTube:

Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Because HazMatt has friends you might not expect.



**CHECK THE BOX**

LPG SAFETY

No Refill for 1 lb., Cylinders

*"Everett, WA,
fire
investigators
determined the
fire that killed a
coffee stand
owner started
because she was
refilling a small
propane
cylinder from a
20-pound tank
to fuel her
portable
heater."*

-Fox Q13 News Staff

U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration



STOP!

DO NOT REFILL
SMALL 1LB CYLINDERS
INTENDED FOR **ONE TIME**
USE ONLY!

CONTACT A QUALIFIED REFILLER
TO DETERMINE IF A CYLINDER
CAN BE FILLED PROPERLY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE HAZMAT INFO CENTER:

 1-800-467-4922
E-mail: infocntr@dot.gov
<http://hazmat.dot.gov>



Knowing your propane or Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder is very important to your safety and those around you. In 2016, a woman was tragically killed due to an explosion at a small coffee stand. In an effort to keep warm using a portable heater and, in order to keep it refueled, she attempted to refill the small, 1 lb., cylinder using a 20 lb., cylinder with a small fitting in between.

This happens all too often as this *incorrect refilling process* is demonstrated time and again on YouTube and uploaded onto the Internet. DOT has regulatory authority of the design and manufacture of these 1 lb., cylinders, also known as DOT 39s. They are specifically designed *to be used once* and then disposed of or recycled. The stress of emptying and refilling weakens the already thin walls of the cylinder.

DOT cautions the public to never refill 1 lb., cylinders.